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Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 IO-13 ACDA-10 /074 W
----------260837Z 051323 /20
O 260658Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4157
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
CINCPAC

UNCLAS SEOUL 4421

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, MILI, KS, US, ASEC

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF DECLARATION READ IN KOREAN AND ENGLISH AT GATHERING OF APPROXIMATELY 2,000 CHRISTIANS AT CENTRAL EVANGELIC CHURCH IN THE CENTER OF SEOUL BETWEEN 11 A.M. AND NOON MAY 26. DETAILS OF EVENT REPORTED SEPTEL.

2. BEGIN TEXT: "AT THIS TIME AS FORMAL DISCUSSIONS ARE BEING HELD REGARDING THE ISSUE OF WITHDRAWAL OF UNITED STATES GROUND FORCES FROM KOREA, THE KOREAN CHURCH FEELS IT NECESSARY TO EXPLAIN FORMALLY OUR VIEWPOINT. THEREFORE IN THE NAME OF THE ENTIRE CHURCH AND OF ITS FIVE MILLION MEMBERS WE WILH TO EXPRESS OUR RESOLVE. FOR THIS IS AN ISSUE WHICH DIRECTLY AFFECTS THE SURVIVAL OF 35 MILLION KOREAN CITIZENS; THE NATIONAL SECURITY OF THIS COUNTRY IS AN IMPORTANT ISSUE FOR THE SAKE OF PEACE IN ASIA CERTAINLY AND IN THE WORLD. IN SPITE OF THE EARNEST EFFORTS OF THE KOREAN PEOPLE IN 1949 FOR KEEPING BACK THE UNITED STATES FORCES, AS SOON AS THE UNITED STATES FORCES WITHDREW, THE NORTH KOREAN COMMUNIST MILITARY FORCES DARED TO INVADE THE SOUTH ON 25 JUNE 1950. AS A RESULT MANY THOUSANDS OF THE YOUTH OF FRIENDLY NATIONS AND MANY MILLIONS OF KOREAN CITIZENS WERE SACRIFICED. SO THAT THE HISTORY OF THIS SAME TRAGEDY
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DOES NOT REPEAT ITSELF ONCE MORE, WE STRONGLY OPPOSE THE WITHDRAWAL OF UNITED STATES GROUND FORCES AND MAKE THE FOLLOWING DECLARATION.

(A) WE BELIEVE THAT THE CONTINUED STATIONING OF UNITED STATES GROUND FORCES IS THE MOST APPROPRIATE MEASURE FOR HOLDING IN CHECK THE EVIL AMBITION FOR INVASION OF THE NORTH KOREAN COMMUNISTS,

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AND WE BELIEVE THAT IT IS THE ONLY METHOD FOR RESTRAINING THE COMMUNIST ENCROACHMENT IN ASIA. SINCE THE MILITARY TRUCE AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED IN JULY OF 1953 UNTIL NOW, THE FACT THAT THEY HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO INVADE AGAIN IS ENTIRELY BECAUSE OF THE STRENGTH OF THE CONTINUED STATIONING OF UNITED STATES FORCES. MOREOVER, WE ARE ALWAYS AWARE OF THE EVEN MORE POWERFUL SUPPORT BEHIND THE NORTH KOREZN COMMUNISTS.

(B) THE COUNTLESS GUERRILLA INVASIONS AND ACTS OF MURDER BY THE NORTH KOREAN COMMUNISTS AFTER THE MILITARY ARMISTICE, AS WELL AS THEIR DIGGING OF MANY TUNNELS BENEATH THE MILITARY TRUCE LINE, GIVE EVIDENCE OF THEIR NATURE AS A MORE BELLICOSE GROUP THAN OTHER COMMUNIST COUNTRIES. EVEN NOW THEY ARE CALLING FOR A COMMUNIST UNIFICATION AND THEY ARE EXERTING UTMOST EFFORTS IN PREPARATION FOR AGGRESSION. THEREFORE THE WITHDRAWAL OF UNITED STATES FORCES FROM KOREA IS INVITING A NEW WAR IN THIS LAND, AND IT WILL BRING A FRIGHTENING CONSEQUENCE OF DRAWING FRIENDLY NATIONS AND THE ENTIRE WORLD INTO THE VORTEX OF WAR.

(C) WE KNOW THAT BECAUSE OF THE COMMUNISTS THE CHURCH IN NORTH KOREA WAS WIPED OUT OF EXISTENCE AND MANY CHURCH WORKERS AND BELIEVERS WERE MARTYERED. MOREOVER, WE ARE LIVING WITNESSES THROUGH OUR OWN PERSONAL EXPERIENCE OF SUCH BRUTAL MURDER AND OPPRESSION AT THE TIME OF THE KOREAN WAR. THUS THE PREVENTION OF COMMUNIST AGGRESSION IN THIS LAND IS A TASK WHICH PROTECTS THE CHURCH AND IS THE ONLY METHOD FOR PROTECTION OF FAITH. MOREOVER, BECAUSE WE KNOW ALL TOO WELL THE INHUMANLY BRUTAL NATURE OF THE COMMUNISTS, WE DO NOT REGARD THE MURDER OF THE GOOD CITIZENS OF CAMBODIA AS SIMPLY SOME OTHER PERSON'S BUSINESS.
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THAT IS BECAUSE IN THE EVENT THAT THIS NATION WOULD BECOME A VICTIM OF THE COMMUNISTS' AGGRESSION, THE CONSEQUENCE WHICH 35 MILLION DEMOCRATIC CITIZENS WOULD SUFFER IS JUST LIKE THAT.

3. WE WILL CONTINUALLY ROUSE OURSELVES TO ACTION UNTIL THIS OUR RESOLVE OF 'ABSOLUTE OPPOSITION TO WITHDRAWAL OF UNITED STATES FORCES' AND UNTIL THIS OUR EARNEST DESIRE FOR 'THE PERMANENT PEACE OF THE KOREAN PENINSULA AND THE PEACE OF THE WORLD' ARE COMPLETELY ACCOMPLISHED ACCORDING TO GOD'S WILL. ACCORDINGLY WE APPEAL VIGOROUSLY FOR THE POSITIVE SUPPORT OF THE WORLD CHURCH AND OF FRIENDLY NATIONS. 26 MAY 1977 KOREAN CHRISTIAN AD-HOC POLICY COMMITTEE"
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Retention: 0
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To: STATE
Type: TE
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